

What Is Claimed Is:

1               1. A system of distributing electronic content  
2 comprising:

3               a network operations center generating a broadcast signal  
4 having digital electronic content;

5               a communication backbone coupled to said network  
6 operations center;

7               a base station receiving said broadcast signal from said  
8 backbone, said base station receiving said broadcast signal and forming a  
9 wireless local area network, said base station rebroadcasting at least a  
10 portion of said broadcast signal as a rebroadcast signal using said wireless  
11 local network; and

12              a user appliance positioned with said local area network and  
13 receiving said rebroadcast signal.

1               2. A system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a  
2 television coupled to said base station, said television receiving at least a  
3 portion of said broadcast signal.

1               3. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said base  
2 station forms said rebroadcast signal from said digital electronic content.

1               4. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said  
2 electronic content comprises digital audio signals.

1               5. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said  
2 electronic content comprises video.

1               6. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said  
2 backbone comprises a high altitude device, cable or fiber optic cable.

1           7. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said high  
2 altitude device comprises a satellite.

1           8. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said high  
2 altitude device comprises a stratospheric platform.

1           9. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said base  
2 station comprises an integrated receiver decoder.

1           10. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said  
2 rebroadcast signal is a compressed signal.

1           11. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said  
2 backbone comprises a cable network.

1           12. A system as recited in claim 1 wherein said  
2 backbone comprises a fiber optic network.

1           13. A method of distributing electronic content  
2 comprising the steps of:

3                 coupling electronic content to a redistribution device;  
4                 receiving the electronic content from the redistribution  
5                 device;  
6                 over-the-air broadcasting the electronic content; and  
7                 receiving the electronic content through a user appliance.

1           14. A method as recited in claim 13 wherein the step of  
2 receiving over-the-air broadcasting comprises over-the-air broadcasting  
3 from a base station.

1               15. A method as recited in claim 13 wherein the step of  
2 receiving over-the-air broadcasting comprises forming a local area  
3 network with the user appliance.

1               16. A method of distributing electronic content  
2 comprising the steps of:

3               broadcasting a television signal as a electronic content;  
4               receiving the electronic content;  
5               digitally compressing the electronic content into a  
6 compressed signal; and  
7               rebroadcasting the compressed signal using a wireless local  
8 area network.

1               17. A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising  
2 the steps of receiving the compressed signaling at a user appliance.

1               18. A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the step of  
2 receiving comprises the steps of digitally decompressing the digital video  
3 stream, and displaying the video stream.

1               19. A base station comprising:  
2               a receiving antenna for receiving electronic content;  
3               compression software for compressing the electronic  
4 content into a compressed signal;  
5               a transmitting area network antenna; and  
6               a wireless local area network interface coupled to the  
7 transmitting area network antenna and broadcasting the compressed  
8 signal through the transmitting area network antenna as a rebroadcast  
9 signal.